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Deacon Olafson D. Halstead's father was John Halstead (m. Rachel Knapp), who was born 12-08-1821. His early days were spent upon the farm and in the saw mill of his father. He learned the trade of a blacksmith and carried on that business at Elkdale for about a year; he was a farmer on the Elk Mountain three years, before selling out in 1847. After a couple years' blacksmithing at the Corners he began a mercantile business there, and, for a period of 17 years was a main instrument in drawing business and